

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): An expansion valve including a power element that senses pressure and temperature of refrigerant at an outlet of an evaporator and controls a valve lift of a valve portion, to thereby control a flow rate of refrigerant supplied to the evaporator,

characterized in that a maximum value of the valve lift is set such that the flow rate is equal to 1.0 to 1.4 times a flow rate corresponding to ~~a set tonnage~~ a tonnage set as a capacity which can pass a maximum flow rate; wherein,

the power element causes a center disk for transmitting displacement of a diaphragm sensing the pressure and temperature of the refrigerant to a valve element of the valve portion via a shaft to be brought into abutment with an inner wall of a housing toward the valve portion, thereby defining the maximum valve lift of the valve portion.

Claim 2 (canceled):

Claim 3 (original): The expansion valve as claimed in claim 2, wherein the center disk is guided in a direction of displacement of the diaphragm, by a holder holding an end of the shaft on a side opposite to the valve portion.

Claims 4 (original): The expansion valve as claimed in claim 1, wherein the valve portion comprises a valve seat, a valve element having a shape of a ball and disposed in a manner opposed to the valve seat from an upstream side, and a spring for urging the valve element in a valve-closing direction, and wherein the valve seat is tapered such that an amount of tapering is equal to or larger than an amount of axial motion of the valve element.